

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, 9-13 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended. No new matter is added by this amendment. Support for the amendment can be found in at least Applicant's Fig. 2, for example. Reconsideration of the application in view of the above amendments and following remarks is respectfully requested.

Applicant appreciates the courtesies shown to Applicant's representative by Examiner Meyer in the December 4 telephone interview and the February 17 personal interview. Applicant's separate record of the substance of the interviews are incorporated into the following remarks.

With regard to the status of the November 23 Office Action, as agreed to during the December 4 telephone interview, the finality of the November 23, 2009 Office Action has been withdrawn.

I. PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

The Office Action rejects claims 1, 3, 9 and 10 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,913,258 to Sakurai et al. (hereinafter "Sakurai"); and claims 4-6 and 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Sakurai in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,057,617 to Schmid. The rejections are respectfully traversed.

As agreed during the personal interview, Sakurai fails to disclose a suspension arm whose mounting portion is provided on a radial inner surface of a cylindrical member. Thus, Sakurai fails to disclose all of the features of independent claim 1.

In addition, the dependent claims are patentable for at least their dependence on the independent claims, as well as for the additional features they recite.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections.

II. CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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